

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/706,499

Examiner

Shih-wen Hsieh

Applicant(s)

HARRIS, IRA M.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed on Nov. 12, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-24.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/~~Comment~~
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

SHIH-WEN HSIEH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

S. Hsieh 9-28-05

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification:

Page 7, [00040], line 1, "tray 11" has been changed to "tray 13"; and [00042], line 6, "wiper element 21" has been changed to "wiper element 20", since "21" is the tip of the wiper element 20.

Page 9, [00047], line 2, "wiper element 21" has been changed to "wiper element 20"; and line 3, "rear wall 13" has been changed to "rear wall 16".

Page 9, [00047], lines 5-10 and figs. 3 and 4. In the quoted lines, "50" stands for a support plate or lid, "51" stands for "a free leading end of the substrate"; and "52" stands for "a rear or trailing end of the substrate". Substrate is represented by numeral "12". Based on the previous discussions, numeral "51" should point to the leading end of the substrate (12) not pointed to the leading end of the plate (50) as it was shown in fig. 3. If "51" points to the plate (50) as it was shown in fig. 3, then the statement should be "The substrate is positioned on the plate 50 such that a free leading end 51 of the **plate**....". Similar situation is for numeral "52". Appropriate correction is required.

Page 9, [00049], line 4, "coating rod 21" has been changed to "coating rod 31"; and line 6, "wiper element 21" has been changed to "wiper element 20"; and [00050], line 2, "wiper element 21" has been changed to "wiper element 20".

Page 10, [00051], line 2, "coating rod 21" has been changed to "coating rod 31"

2. Claims 1-24 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In regard to:

Claims 1-5:

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 1-5 is the inclusion of the limitations of a coating rod supported adjacent to said wiper element to pinch a substrate therebetween with a free end of the substrate extending from the rod and wiper element and a tail end of the substrate immersed in the coating liquid in the tray so that when the free end of the substrate is engaged to pull the rest of the substrate from the tray, the wiper element wipes the coating liquid from a back surface of the substrate while the coating rod forms a layer of determined thickness of the coating liquid on a front surface of the substrate. It is these limitation found in each of the claims, as they are claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

Claims 6-15:

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 6-15 is the inclusion of the limitations of a coating rod extending across said cover for being positioned adjacent to said wiper member when said cover is closed to engage the substrate between the wiper member and the coating rod with a front part of the substrate extending in front of the wiper member to enable the front part of the substrate to be engaged to pull the substrate from the tray between the wiper member and the coating rod and cause a layer of the coating liquid to be applied to a top surface of the substrate with a determined thickness while a bottom surface of the substrate is wiped clean by the wiper member. It is these limitation found in each of the claims, as they are claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

Claims 16-24:

The primary reason for the allowance of claims 16-24 is the inclusion of the method steps of pressing the substrate into the coating liquid in the reservoir while keeping the substrate on the wiper element and while positioning a coating rod adjacent to the wiper element to pinch the substrate between the wiper element and the coating rod. It is these steps found in each of the claims, as they are claimed in the combination that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record, which makes these claims allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 6,696,098 B2, "Method for coating a running web using a coated rod" issued to Takekuma et al., 2/2004 teaches a coating apparatus (40, fig. 4) having a coating rod (42, fig. 4), a web (12, fig. 4) is coated by a coating liquid (14, fig. 4).

US 5,736,001, "Combination drywall joint compound hopper and drywall tape dispenser" issued to Samuelson, 4/98 teaches a open top basin (6) contains joint compound (7), which is applied to a tap (320 feed through a turn roller (22) and pass in between a pair of pinch rollers (20).

US 5,330,575, "Method and apparatus for application of wallpaper plaster" issued to Poole et al., 7/94 teaches in their figs 1 and 2, a wallpaper paste applying apparatus (10) for applying paste (16) contained in a trough (17) with a cover/lid (22) onto a back surface (14) of the wallpaper (12). An applicator roller (18) applies paste onto the back surface of the wall paper. An adjustable flow control bar (20) is placed adjacent the roller (18) to control the flow of paste, which flows through a space (43) formed between edge (42) and the roller (18). The relative position of the flow control bar with respect to the roller (18) is analog to the wiper element and the coating rod in the instant

application. However, the wall paper does not pass in between the bar (20) and the roller (18).

US 4,869,933, "Coating device" issued to Sollinger et al., 9/89 teaches in their fig. 1, a housing (13) containing conduit (15) having openings (17) for introducing coating material, which flows to chamber (1), web (W) to be coated running against a rotating drum (3). A throttle plate (2) defines a gap (5) between the tip of the plate (2) and the rotating drum. A rolling doctor rod (4) is held against the moving web, and applies the coating substance onto the web. A doctor blade (7) is disposed upstream of the roller (4) and is used to wipe out the excess amount of coating, which is more than desired to be put on the web.

US 4,136,635, "Apparatus for continuously coating a web with a liquid" issued to Johansson et al., 1/79 teaches in their fig. 2 a vacuum chamber (2) containing coating liquid (6), a paper web (1) is pressed against a roller (5), the roller is rotated by means of a belt pulley (8), a scraper (10) is placed against the roller (5), it prevents liquid from splashing from the pool (6) of liquid in the chamber to the web, it also removes any excess of liquid adhering to the surface of the roller.

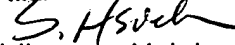
5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shih-wen Hsieh whose telephone number is 571-272-2256. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM -5:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, S D. Meier can be reached on 571-272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SHIH-WEN HSIEH
PRIMARY EXAMINER


Shih-wen Hsieh
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2861

SWH



Sept. 27, 2005